

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

International Journal of Infectious Diseases

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ijid

Book review

Tuberculosis and the tubercle bacillus

Editors: Stewart T. Cole, Kathleen Davis Eisenach, David N. McMurray, William R. Jacobs Jr, Hardcover, 584 pages, ASM Press; 2005, ISBN 1-55581r-r295-3.

This book begins with two quotes from the autobiography of Edward Livingston Trudeau. The first describes Trudeau's experience of the day he was diagnosed with pulmonary tuberculosis, "that most fatal of diseases". In the second quote, Trudeau makes reference to Koch's paper on 'The aetiology of tuberculosis' and deems it as "certainly, one of the greatest, if not the greatest, medical papers ever written and a model of logic of the new experimental method to the study of disease."

Both quotes highlight the two most exceptional features of this book: in-depth discussions of all aspects of TB, while at the same time providing important context on the utility of each topic. The historical, clinical, and epidemiological context highlighting the global impact of TB disease is provided in sections I and II. Subsequent sections deal with diagnostics, treatment, and drug resistance. Perhaps, a current review of the treatment regimens would have been helpful here. The remainder of the book examines the organism itself, with sections on genomics and proteomics, genetics, cell structure and metabolism, and its interaction with

the human host. Context is again provided by discussing how certain methods or findings may impact on improved diagnosis or the development of an effective vaccine, for example. The editors close with a section on the utility of animal models in TB research.

Each chapter offers a complete yet logical and easy to follow (even for the mere clinician) discussion of the topic. Great introductions and conclusions to each chapter, some highlighting of directions for future research, and the occasional use of humour keep the reader engaged. The authors also include excellent directions to the reader on where to find further information on the topic by referencing reviews, websites, and other useful resources.

While the editors suggest that this work be considered an update to Barry R. Bloom's *Tuberculosis: pathogenesis, protection, and control* (ASM Press; 1994), I would argue it can stand alone as an excellent reference for anyone trying to truly understand and research TB disease, as opposed to merely follow existing guidelines aimed at its control.

Yoko S. Schreiber

E-mail address: yschreiber@ottawahospital.on.ca

11 November 2009